

New Aberrations of *Callimorpha jacobaeae* Linn. (Lep. Arctidae)

By R. W. WATSON, F.B.A.A., F.A., F.C.C.S., F.Comm.A., F.R.E.S.

Description

***Callimorpha jacobaeae* ab. *coneyi* ab. nov.**

Fore and hindwings of a beautiful clear vermilion with the normal red markings clearly visible but of a darker shade.

Fringes buff yellow except for a few black scales on forewing costa.

Thorax and abdomen vermilion but slightly dull in appearance.

Type

Female as photograph by A. W. Coney, June 1965.

Paratype

Male bred 12th June 1966, A. W. Coney.

Female bred 11th June 1966, Dodwell Collection.

***Callimorpha jacobaeae* ab. *intermedia* ab. nov.**

Fore and hindwings of vermilion with the normal red markings more clearly defined than in ab. *coneyi* and somewhat darker.

Fringes buff yellow suffused with black scaling which is heavier on costa of fore and hindwings.

Thorax and abdomen vermilion suffused with black.

Type

Male bred 14th June 1966, Dodwell Collection.

Female bred 16th June 1966, Watson Collection.

***Callimorpha jacobaeae* ab. *nigrofimbriata* ab. nov.**

Fore and hindwings of dull vermilion with the normal red markings well defined.

Fringes and margins of all wings black, heaviest on the costa of fore and hindwings. Veins on forewings black and suffusion of black scaling on outer third of forewings.

Thorax and abdomen dull vermilion heavily suffused with black.

Type

Male 18th June 1966, Watson Collection.

History

In January 1966, I received a letter from a master of a school in Dorset attended by one of my nieces who had informed him of my interest in Lepidoptera. I was amazed by the photograph which was enclosed depicting a female *C. jacobaeae* Linn. of a uniform red coloration with the normal red markings still visible and of a darker shade.

The sender, Mr. A. W. Coney, stated that a boy had found the moth in a school playing field and brought it to him. It was photographed and released without the real significance of the insect being appreciated. Fortunately, eggs had been laid in a jam jar from which 70 larvae were successfully reared on groundsel. At this stage Mr. Coney contacted two local entomologists, one of whom was Mr. D. E. Dodwell of Yeovil, and

gave them 43 larvae, retaining 20 for himself which eventually pupated.

I immediately contacted Mr. Coney, stating that, in my opinion, this was an aberration new to science and that every care should be taken to continue the strain in sufficient numbers to learn something of the genetics thereof. Mr. Coney very kindly let me have 10 pupae from which 9 emerged successfully, one drying up.

The results were as follows:—

	(R. W. Watson)
1 coneyi	female
2 intermedia	male—1
	female—1
1 nigrofimbriata	male
5 type	males—4
	female—1 (crippled)

	(A. W. Coney)
1 coneyi	male
1 intermedia	maie
6 type	

(D. E. Dodwell)

The 43 larvae resulted in 17 pupae of which 4 dried up and the remaining 13 emerged as follows:—

3 coneyi
5 intermedia
5 type

Pairings were obtained as follows:—

Brood 1 (R. W. Watson)

intermedia male X coneyi female

The female showed reluctance in laying (fortunately the original was more obliging!) and would not commence until placed on growing groundsel.

From 170 eggs 81 pupae resulted. The larvae were quite healthy and were transferred to ragwort after the first instar.

Brood 2 (R. W. Watson)

type male X type female

Most of the ova were infertile and only 5 pupae resulted.

Brood 3 (R. W. Watson)

wild type male taken M.V. trap at Boldre X intermedia female

This was a very healthy brood and 246 pupated successfully.

Brood 4 (R. W. Watson)

type male X type female

The pairing was taken by Mr. Coney and passed to me to rear, 83 pupae resulted.

Brood 5 (A. W. Coney)

coneyi male X type female

137 pupated.

Brood 6 (A. W. Coney)

intermedia male X wild type female

114 pupated.

Brood 7 (D. E. Dodwell)

intermedia male X intermedia female

From 178 ova of which 156 hatched only 5 pupated. This was, apparently, a weak brood as No. 2.

The strain will be continued and further results published in due course.

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- A. D. A. RUSSWURM for his masterly execution of the original water colour paintings from which the blocks are prepared.
- A. W. CONEY for enabling these experiments to be carried out and for breeding from the pairings 5 and 6 in a very capable manner.
- D. E. DODWELL, F.R.E.S., for permitting me to examine and classify his specimens and supplying me with the details of Brood 7.

Porcorum, Sandy Down, Boldre, Lymington, Hants. October 1966.

Butterfly Expedition to Iran, 1966

By Major General SIR GEORGE JOHNSON, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

OUTWARD JOURNEY

My wife and I left London on 14th May in a long Land Rover with dormobile body. Crossing the channel by the Dover-Calais ferry, we spent the first night at Ostend. We then had an uneventful run down the German autobahns to Salzburg, which we reached on 17th May.

The following day we found sheets of pheasant's eye narcissus on the Pötschen pass, and a little further on *Erebia medusa* Schiff. already out by the roadside. Proceeding via Graz, we crossed the Austro-Yugoslav frontier on 19th May and spent that night at a motel south-east of Zagreb. Next morning we woke up to a magnificent dawn chorus of nightingales and golden orioles from a surrounding oak wood. Later that day we stopped for lunch in a rather marshy wood about 50 miles short of Belgrade. Here we took on the roadside a very fresh *Pararge aethina* Scop. and a female and male of *Lycaena dispar* Haw. We also had much trouble from some amazingly blood-thirsty mosquitoes.

We continued via Skopje, Thessalonica and Alexandroupolis reaching Istanbul on 24th May. The main items of interest were many handsome black-headed buntings by the roadside in Macedonia, and an excellent fish dinner in Thessalonica.

Next morning we crossed the Bosphorus by ferry, seeing many flocks of sheerwaters flying up and down the narrow strait, and reached Ankara that evening. En route we saw our first black storks. The white ones had been in evidence since entering Yugoslavia.

On 26th May we did a 270 mile run to Samsun on the Black Sea, stopping at an area recently planted with young trees and consequently ungrazed, near Corum. Here some butterflies were flying including *Zerinthia cerisyi* Bdv., *Leptidea duponcheli* Staud., *Cupido sebrus* Hübn. and *Glaucopsyche alexis* Poda.

The Black Sea coast, though beautiful, was uninteresting as regards butterflies and birds. It had one fifty mile stretch of twisty, narrow, and much potholed gravel road between Ordu and Trabzon, the only really bad stretch we met in Turkey. An unusual feature was the quantity of orchards of hazel nuts, one of the major local products.